



May 2015  
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# On the Gulch

A Newsletter For and About City of Helena Employees

## Employee News

### Congratulations and welcome to:

Nikki Johnson, Court Administrator

**Congratulations** to Franz "Frosty" Linjanen for his retirement and service of **32 years** with the Parks Department; and

to Mark Scarff on his retirement, thank you for 12 years with the Helena Parking Commission!



## Solid Waste Staff: Great Service

*"When crossing the scale, the operator always has a smile for me."*

*"I was dropping off my recyclables, as I do regularly, and wanted you to know how wonderful your staff is at the transfer station. They are always helpful, they always provide a smile and great service."*

These are just two of a number of written comments received at the City Manager's Office. Thank you to our solid waste staff for your outstanding service to our community!

## Road Construction Season

I used to say: "There are two seasons in Montana, winter and guest."

Now that I've been here for 16 years, I have to say: "There are two seasons in Montana, winter and guest/road construction."

Slow down, read the signs, approach work zones with extra caution. Arrive at your destination safely and help keep those working safe. *Especially in town*, be good ambassadors for our city!

### National Work Zone Car Crash Statistics

- Car accidents involving dangerous pavement-edge drop-offs kill approximately 160 people and injure 11,000 every year.
- Crashes in highway work zones have killed at least 4,700 Americans – more than two a day – and injured 200,000 in the last five years alone.
- About 85% of people killed in work zones are motorists, not workers.
- In 2009, there were 667 work zone fatalities.
- There are more than 40,000 injuries in work zones each year.
- Approximately one work zone fatality occurs every 10 hours (2.3 a day).
- Approximately one work zone injury occurs every 13 minutes (110 a day).
- There were 162 large trucks and buses that were involved in work zone crashes in 2009.

From Edgar Snyder Law Firm website: <https://www.edgarsnyder.com/car-accident/cause-of-accident/road-construction/road-construction-statistics.html>

Wellness Screenings at CareHere will begin in July!

Employees who had a Wellness Screening in 2014 will be eligible for up to \$300 in incentives. You will earn \$50 simply for participating in the screening and \$50 for each one of five important Health Factors. In order to qualify for the health factor incentives you must meet the outcome for that health factor, or show improvement for that health factor in 2015.

## Spirit of Service

We walk among some very generous people.

On May 19, nearly 20 city employees took vacation or comp time to help our neighbors. Three homes were identified for our team. After meeting up at 8am and sharing some coffee & pastries, three teams were off and running to accomplish major goals at each of the three homes - in just one day.

At one home, a small front porch with handrail was painted to match the home, a lilac jungle was tamed with loppers, a huge yard was weed-whacked and mown, windows were washed, and garbage was removed. It was a big job and the resident was so grateful.

At another home, a long wheelchair ramp was stained, lawn weed-whacked & mown, a paver walkway was leveled & made more wheelchair accessible, yard holes were filled, gardens were weeded and trees & shrubs were trimmed. Again, the homeowner was left smiling in relief and gratitude when our team finished up and loaded tools into trucks.

The final home to receive the benefits of our team this year was another big project with mowing, weeding, replacement of bricks in a walkway, a new vegetable garden plot, removal of rose bushes, installation of a decomposed granite walkway, and more! This homeowner is confident that with our investment of time and energy that she can maintain and continue to improve her property.

Thanks go to our fearless leaders, co-chairs Carrie Hahn & Greta Dige.

Also to be recognized is Kim Sell, organizer of this event for many years.

*Look out for an announcement next April & sign up to participate in SOS 2016!*

**We have great people working for the city, thank you for being extraordinary ambassadors on Spirit of Service Day 2015!**

### Pico de Gallo - Mexican Relish

This delicious chunky, fresh salsa is best served with fresh tortilla chips or used as a topping for burritos, tacos or nachos.

Mix the following, chill, and serve:

6 medium, diced tomatoes

2 finely chopped green onions

1 large diced, fresh peach (or 1 diced fresh mango)

1 can rinsed & drained black beans

1/2 cup frozen corn niblets

1/2 cup chopped cilantro

Sprinkle garlic salt and pepper to taste

Diced fresh jalapeño or hot sauce to taste

#### Construction Season is Here!

There are a lot of projects underway in our area.  
Want updates on street maintenance schedules?

\*Like\* & follow City of Helena, Local Government on Facebook for up-to-date announcements.

